

Portland's New Charter

Section 44 of our proposed new charter reads as follows:

"Each member of the City Council, by way of compensation, shall be allowed \$5 for each Council meeting, and \$3 for each committee meeting, but such compensation shall be allowed only for meetings actually attended by such member, and shall not exceed \$25 to any one member during one calendar month."

Under our present charter members of our City Council receive no pay at all.

The section above quoted was inserted in our proposed new charter largely at the request of members of labor unions, and it may be defended on the following grounds:

First—By allowing them compensation, better service can be counted upon from members of the City Council than could be otherwise reasonably expected.

Such service, if well performed, requires the exercise of thought, intelligence, judgment, unbending integrity, a devotion of much time to the duties imposed, and a consequent withdrawal of attention from the Councilmen's private business affairs. As a result, such service, if performed gratis, will not, as a general rule, be as efficient and satisfactory as if compensation be allowed therefor.

Second—The importance of the work to be done by City Councilmen is such that it ought to be paid for.

What is the general nature of such work? For the most part it consists of legislation, of course. With what does legislation deal? And upon what does it take effect? Among other things, it deals with taxes, with public property, with private property, and with the people of the city in a variety of ways. It takes effect upon property of all kinds within the corporate limits of the city. It takes effect upon all classes of people living within the city limits—upon criminals as well as those who are law-abiding citizens. It deals with and takes effect upon the peace, good order and prosperity of the city taken as a whole. In view of these considerations, does it seem right, proper and the part of sound public policy that for such service compensation should be allowed?

Third—Without compensation for such service, our wage-earning classes and many men of small means would be prevented from taking a position as Councilmen in the legislative branch of our city government.

As a consequence these classes in the main would be without representation in that branch of our city government. Yet it is from these classes that some of our very best public officers are sometimes drawn.

Fourth—The principle of justice also requires that Councilmen should be compensated for their services.

As already once stated, in order to secure efficiency in such work, the men holding these positions ought to be men of considerateness, intelligence, judgment, good character and patriotic impulses. Besides this, the duties they are expected to perform in behalf of

the public cannot be discharged with that degree of care and fidelity to the public interest which their importance demands without a sacrifice of much time and a measurable neglect of private business affairs. Why, then, should they not be required for such service by way of reasonable compensation?

Fifth—The wisdom and justice of compensating persons who employ their time and abilities in the public service have often been discussed by and received the sanction of great and good men.

I will content myself with citing a single instance only. In the great convention of 1787 which framed the Constitution of the United States, the question of paying Representatives and Senators in Congress for their service as such was quite fully considered, and finally decided in favor of allowing them a salary.

The several sections of article 6 of our proposed new charter provide for the establishment and maintenance of a free public library for the use of the inhabitants of the city.

The establishment and maintenance of such a library is a matter of special interest to our mechanics and laboring men generally, for quite a number of reasons. Among them I suggest the following:

First—It makes available to them a very considerable source of information that it ought to be paid for.

Second—Many of our mechanics and laboring men with a literary bent of mind and a disposition to keep posted upon questions in which they are interested will make good use of the books and documents thus made accessible to them.

Third—In this way they will improve many a leisure hour that would otherwise probably go to waste—many a leisure hour that might otherwise be worse than wasted.

In this way they will quite often become more serviceable to themselves, more useful members of the community in which they live, and more valuable citizens to our state and our country at large.

I may furthermore observe that public libraries are gradually becoming more and more one of the important necessities of the age and civilization in which we live. This is evidenced by the rapid multiplication of these institutions that has been going on in our own country during the last half century.

We have in the United States today 90 or 100 libraries of more than 50,000 volumes each, and about half of them have been founded since 1850.

We have, all told, not less than 4000 libraries of 1000 volumes or more each, and probably not less than nine-tenths of them have been founded within the last 50 years. What is true of the United States in this particular is also true in large measure in Great Britain, France, Germany and many other European countries.

J. T. MORGAN.

(To be continued.)

Russian wage-earners are on a strike in Moscow, and riots and bloodshed occurred on April 26.

Look out for the union label.

NOTICE OF BANKRUPTCY.

Notice is hereby given that on the 28th day of April, 1902, John S. Montgomery, of Portland, Oregon, was duly adjudicated bankrupt; and that the first meeting of his creditors will be held at room 600 Chamber of Commerce Building, Portland, Oregon, on the 5th day of May, 1902, at 10 o'clock A. M., at which time the said creditors may attend, prove their claims, appoint a trustee, examine the bankrupt and transact such other business as may properly come before said meeting.

Dated, Portland, Oregon, April 26, 1902.

ALEX. SWEEK.

Referee in Bankruptcy.

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JOHN DELLAR, FIRST AND YAMHILL STREETS, PORTLAND, ORE.



At Last Went to First.

A purchaser of a suit of clothes, Spring overcoat, hat and a pair of shoes, looking up prices and quality at all of the different stores on Morrison street, as well as on Third street, to convince himself of the truthfulness of the advertisements of John Dellar, corner First and Yamhill. He decided to go on First street until he came to the nine-show-window store of John Dellar, which he soon chose as the best place to do his trading. He could not help expressing himself to the effect that he preferred our \$8.50 and \$10 suits to any he had seen uptown for \$12 and \$15. We claim to sell every article in the store 20 per cent. less in comparison to other stores' prices.

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